

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/725,668

Applicant(s)

BRENNAN ET AL.

Examiner

John P. Trimmings

Art Unit

2138

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE dated 11/3/2006 and amendment dated 10/09/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-16, 18-24, renumbered as 1-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20061127</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


John P Trimmings
Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the applicant's RCE dated 11/03/2006 and amendment dated 10/09/2006.

The applicant has amended claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 12, 15 and 22.

The applicant has canceled claims 3 and 17.

Claims 1-2, 4-16 and 18-24 are pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/09/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's arguments (see amendment filed 10/09/2006), with respect to all claims rejected in the examiner's final office action dated 8/03/2006 have been fully considered and are persuasive. All of the rejections outlined in said final office action have been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Larry Ashery on 11/22/2006. The examiner herein amends the following claims:

Claim 1, line 6: "... test sequences includes a test pattern used with a plurality set of conditions and the plurality set of ...".

Claim 5, line 3: "... sequences includes a test pattern used with a plurality set of conditions and the plurality set of ...".

Claim 7, lines 9 and 10: "... wherein each of said test sequences includes a test pattern used with a plurality set of conditions and the plurality set of conditions are different between each of said test sequences; ..."

Claim 12, line 10: "... sequences includes a test pattern used with a plurality set of conditions and the plurality set of ...".

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-2, 4-16 and 18-24 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per independent claims 1, 7 and 12, the references Giles and Templeton teach a method of performing manufacturing tests on an embedded memory device comprising applying a first stress test to the memory using a BIST, and using a plurality of sequences where each sequence includes a pattern using a set of conditions that is different from another sequence, detecting and repairing a failed cell, and applying a second stress test. But the references herein have failed to teach, suggest or disclose the unique feature of the applicant's claims 1, 7 and 12 where the repaired cells are tested during the second test, the second test being different from the first. Also, as per claims 7 and 12, the references also fail to teach a set of timings being applied using built-in self-test controls.

As per independent claim 15, the examiner accepts the applicant's reasons for allowance outlined in the after final amendment dated 10/09/2006.

Consequently, dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8-14, 16 and 18-24 are also allowable in view of their dependence on the allowed independent claims.

In all, claims 1-2, 4-16 and 18-24 are allowed, and are renumbered as claims 1-22.

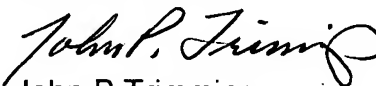
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

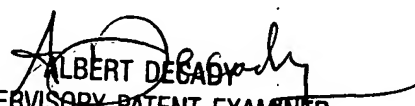
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Trimmings whose telephone number is (571) 272-3830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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